United Nations

Daily Highlights

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General welcomes imminent meeting between President of South Africa F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress President Nelson Mandela; urges early attainment of democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

+ Future of United Nations humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo remains in doubt because of continuing security concerns, says United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

+ General Assembly is addressed by Heads of State of Latvia, Ecuador, Mongolia and Georgia; Foreign Ministers of Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Spain, India and Turkey; heard statements yesterday by Foreign Ministers of Greece Dominican Republic, Zaire, Marshall Islands and Azerbaijan.

** Following meeting with Secretary-General, Foreign Ministers of five permanent Security Council members issue statement reviewing priorities of Organization over past year.

** Head of State of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, at press conference at Headquarters, reviews situation in his country, urges enhancement of role and responsibility of United Nations.

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A United Nations spokesman announced last night that he had just been informed by Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), that a meeting was imminent between Mr. Mandela and South African President F.W. de Klerk.

The spokesman said the Secretary-General warmly welcomed the development and expressed his sincere appreciation for the perseverance and leadership shown by President de Klerk and Mr. Mandela in resolving difficulties that had arisen. The Secretary-General said he believed their meeting would help transform the political atmosphere in South Africa in a positive way and lead rapidly to the resumption of multilateral negotiations involving all parties concerned. The early attainment of a democratic, non-racial and united South

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Africa was a goal of the utmost importance to the United Nations. The Organization would continue to further this objective in a constructive and understanding way, the Secretary-General said.

The African National Congress broke off talks with the South African Government after the massacre of nearly 50 men, women and children in the township of Boipatong in mid-June. In mid-July, the Security Council urged the South African Government to take immediate measures to stop the violence and bring those responsible to justice. In mid-August, the Council authorized the dispatch of 50 United Nations observers to South Africa. In addition, the Secretary-General designated former Under-Secretary-General Virendra Dayal as his Special Envoy, to hold follow-up discussions on ending the violence and resuming negotiations. Mr. Dayal travelled to South Africa last week.

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The future of the United Nations humanitarian airlift to the besieged city of Sarajevo remains in doubt because of continuing security concerns, according to a press release issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today.

While expressing support for the resumption of the airlift, which was suspended on 3 September following the downing of an Italian relief plane by a missile, participating nations have asked the UNHCR to seek further security assurances from the warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The High Commissioner, Sadako Ogata, on 19 September, recommended that the airlift be resumed as soon as possible because of the urgent need to stockpile supplies before the onset of winter. The UNHCR has recognized from the start that the airlift is a dangerous undertaking, one that can never be fully safe as long as the fighting continues.

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Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Latvia, drew the Assembly's attention this morning to the "serious issue" of foreign military forces still in its territory, as well as the large number of retired military persons for whom his small country, which only one year ago restored its independence, had been pressured to provide social guarantees.

He said Latvia had been denied the right to monitor those forces and asserted that the lack of control over that army, its chaotic demobilization and "wilful covert merging" with economic enterprises and civil institutions had created a threat of unsupervised arms transfers, even in international markets.

Calling on the United Nations to pay attention to both large and small States, Mr. Gorbunovs said it was his Government's opinion that the security of small States should be of central concern to the Organization since a balance of power or agreement on goals between small States and their larger neighbours did not exist at the present time.

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The President of Ecuador, Sixto Durán Ballén, addressing the problem of the external debt, said that for the least developed countries that problem was just another of the serious difficulties preventing them from developing and reaching better living standards. It would be very promising to reach an agreement on the mechanisms to alleviate the problems; one of the solutions would be to convert the external debt into investment in social and economic development projects.

The Ecuadorian President went on to say that it seemed "paradoxical and serious" that those countries that most advocated the elimination of trade barriers still maintained and even created new situations of protectionism, or discrimination, which hampered access to their markets for the products of developing countries.

The recent breakup of the Soviet Union had opened up a space for the fresh rivalries to appear, Eduard Shevardnadze, Chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Georgia, explained in his address this morning. Due to their political, economic and military weakness, the new States of the Caucasus were currently incapable of filling the vacuum and creating reliable guarantees of their own security. The newly emerged vacuum was also being used by the internal destructive groups which, under the guise of nationalist, pseudo-patriotic, separatist and even religious slogans, pursued their political objectives based on self-interest.

All that was making itself felt with varying degrees of clarity in the activities of the so-called "Confederation of the Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus", which had attempted to encroach upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, he said. Under the guise of volunteers, it had sent "hundreds of mercenary assassins" to Georgia. At the same time, Mr. Shevardnadze said, the leadership of the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic was infringing upon the rights of another ethnic group, which constituted half of the population of Abkhazia. That had led to inter-ethnic tensions and dramatic confrontations, he said.

The Georgian President called for the creation of a Trans-Caucasian mechanism of consultation, with the formation of a system of collective security in the Black Sea-Caucasus region. He also expressed his Government's support for the effort to draft a declaration on the rights of minorities. Such a text, he said, must contain an article on the responsibility of minorities for the maintenance of peace and stability in the territory in which they lived.

Communism had tied up nations with the false idea of proletarian internationalism, and that idea had necessarily affected relations between the Czechs and the Slovaks, Jozef Moravcik, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovakia, told the Assembly.

One way to resolve the problems that had arisen between the two peoples over the 74 years of coexistence within a common State lay in the replacement of the existing federalist pattern by new ties. Czechoslovakia was therefore preparing to establish two closely interconnected sovereign states "by

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creating a common economic space and keeping in their entirety dense human contacts between people living in both republics". Czechoslovakia was now undergoing a process aimed at creating a solid basis for such a model of integration, which had been developing in Western Europe under democratic circumstances.

Globalism and nationalism were not opposing trends, Mr. Moravcik noted, adding that the world was characterized by an era of global integration comprising different sub-systems in which the United Nations had a irreplaceable role to play.

Mr. Moravcik also expressed his Government's full support for the United Nations peace-keeping operations, emphasizing the importance of Czech and Slovak contingents in such operations.

The Foreign Minister of Egypt, Amre Moussa, said that while most Middle East Arab and Non-Arab States had joined the international system of inspection or the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), one State had not. That State, which possessed a massive arsenal of military industries, was causing many security concerns, as it seemed to be engaged in a process of missile development process that threatened the whole concept of regional and international disarmament. Furthermore, he said, it would also restrict the freedom of the region's States to accede to the new convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

On the question of Palestine, Mr. Moussa welcomed the Rubin Government's move "in the right direction" which, he said, had created a basis of credibility for the current Middle East negotiations. It was important, he added, that the Arab parties, particularly Syria, had agreed to enter into comprehensive peace agreements with Israel provided that the latter adhered to its obligation under the Charter and international law.

The Egyptian Foreign Minister called upon Iran to reconsider its position on the occupation of the Arab islands, the latest of which was Abou Moussa Island, and to demonstrate good-neighbourliness by returning the area to its previous status. He also called on the international community to protect Iraq's territorial integrity and the unity of its people. Egypt also supported Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its international borders.

Calling on countries "in a position to do so" to look for new ways of dealing with the task of attaining sustainable development and assigning greater financial resources to it, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Javier Solana, this afternoon announced that his country, which had tripled its official aid in that area over the past ten years, had made a commitment to triple that aid again over the course of the coming decade.

The Foreign Minister also expressed support for the establishment of a high-level commission on sustainable sevelopment as agreed during the Summit segment of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro last June.

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Turning to the issue of the decolonization of Gibraltar, Mr. Solana restated his Government's willingness to continue negotiating with the United Kingdom. He called the Gibraltar's colonial status "anachronistic and inappropriate to the times in which we live" and expressed hope that the efforts of Spain and the United Kingdom would soon lead to a definitive solution to that question.

In his address to the Assembly this afternoon, President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat of Mongolia said that with the disintegration of the former Soviet Union into independent States, and the incorporation of those new States in the international community, Central Asia was once again emerging as a separate geopolitical entity. He stressed his country's intention to develop trade and economic relations with the nations of the region on the basis of "mutual benefit" and to participate actively in the international division of labour that was taking place there. Institutions such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC) were facilitating such a process.

President Ochirbat also said that Mongolia, which was situated between two permanent members of the Security Council -- Russia and China -- supported for the development of balanced relations with these two countries. The withdrawal of Russian troops, in line with the agreement reached by Mongolia and Russia, was under way.

In his statement to the Assembly, Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs of India, called for an expansion of the membership of the Security Council to reflect the increased membership of the United Nations over the past few years. Such an expansion was all the more essential if the Council was to ensure its moral sanction and political effectiveness, he said.

Turning to the issue of disarmament, Mr. Faleiro stated that there should be no discrimination between nuclear weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States when it came to rights and obligations. The international community's efforts should be directed towards eliminating the global menace of the spatial spread of nuclear arsenals. As part of that, he continued, regional non-proliferation could be considered within the context of a properly region, and taking into account the security concerns of the countries concerned.

In his statement, Hikmet Cetin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, said the search for a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question was continuing. The proximity talks which began in June had registered "some progress" and had resulted in the onset of face-to-face talks between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. That positive turn of events, he said, had been achieved in great part owing to the constructive contribution of Rauf Denktas, but much remained to be done.

He expressed the hope that sufficient ground would be prepared before the resumption of the direct talks in October so that an early completion of the work on the "set of ideas" would be possible. He reiterated his Government's determination to participate in the four-party conference proposed by the Secretary-General to conclude an overall framework agreement.

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Concerning the Yugoslav crisis, the Turkish Foreign Minister underscored his Government's special concern for the suffering of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. While supporting other efforts to reach a peaceful agreement in the region, he said, Turkey had also proposed a set of "concrete and effective measures" designed to stop the fighting in that country.

Turning to the situation in the Caucasus, Mr. Cetin said Armenia should disengage from Nagorno-Karabakh and withdraw its forces from Azerbaijani territory. He urged the parties to achieve a negotiated political solution based on the respect for the inviolability of international borders and respect for minority rights.

Over the past year, the Irish Government had worked "tirelessly" for the resumption of political dialogue which might lead to a lasting and comprehensive settlement of the problem of Northern Ireland, David Andrews, inister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, told the Assembly. The objective of that process was to achieve a "new beginning for relationships within the island of Ireland" and between the peoples concerned, he said.

Such a settlement could only be achieved on the basis of the equal legitimacy of the two traditions which exist on the island, he said. The nationalist and unionist traditions were equally valid and should be accorded equal respect and meaningful political expression in new political arrangements, he added.

The Irish Government, he said, had made it clear that it would be prepared to consider a new and more broadly based agreement or structure if such an arrangement could be reached through direct discussion and negotiation among all the parties concerned. The present talks were exploring that possibility, he said.

It was high time for Greece and Turkey to find a way, on the basis of international law and international conventions and treaties, to establish closer relations, the Foreign Minister of Greece, Michael Papaconstantinou, told the Assembly yesterday. He also stressed the determination of his Government to find a proper solution -- based on all relevant United Nations resolutions - to the problem of Cyprus, which had exercised a negative influence on bilateral relations. The "set of ideas" submitted by the Secretary-General, should form the basis of negotiations during the follow-up talks scheduled to be resumed in late October.

Yugoslav crisis, he continued, remained a potential danger for destabilization of the whole Balkans, and a danger for peace and security in the wider area. Mr. Papaconstantinou expressed full support for the joint United Nations and European Community chairmanship of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, which represented "the only hope for a lasting settlement".

The Greek Foreign Minister reiterated his country's opposition to the international recognition of the Republic of Macedonia under a name that

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included the term "Macedonia". It was more than anything a matter of political realism; the usurpation of a Greek name and of ancient Greek emblems combined with constitutional provisions insinuating territorial expansion were nothing but clear indications of territorial claims, he said.

Juan Aristides Taveras Guzman, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, focused on economic conditions in his country , stressing the decline in its trade balances as a result of protectionist practices and other restrictions. Resources had been reduced and the economy of the country had had to be adjusted, he said, adding that sustainable recovery could only be reached by increased confidence and greater foreign exchange investment.

With regard to Haiti, the Foreign Minister said the democratic experiment under President Jean-Bertrand Aristide had been cut short. The Dominican Republic was providing the facilities for negotiation and dialogue in support of a speedy restoration of normalization in Haiti.

He also told the Assembly that the Dominican Republic had been taking forceful steps to deal with the problem of drug trafficking and was set to accede to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Pierre Lumbi Okongo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zaire told the General Assembly yesterday that in the spirit of global solidarity, the developed countries should provide aid, derived from military cut backs to the countries of the South. He acknowledged, however, that underdevelopment would not disappear because of such an effort and said what was needed were real strategies to reduce the misery of the people in Africa and other developing countries.

The Foreign Minister said that collective security was not only affected by military conflicts, but also by the increasing poverty in the world, which was worsened by high population growth and the burden of external debt. Without real cooperation by the industrialized countries, he said, as well as greater planning, any effort to revitalize the economies of developing countries would be in vain.

Zaire, which had been undergoing a multisectoral crisis for some time, due to "disastrous management of human and material resources", desired change, he explained, noting that his Government had now opened the way for democratic political reforms.

The people of the Marshall Islands had been following with great interest the scientific debate over global warming, Tom Kijiner, Foreign Minister of that country, said yesterday. If global warming endangered certain regions and certain modes of life, he continued, the risks had to be confirmed and the citizens informed. An environment at risk would be a significant constraint for the developing nations in the late twentieth century. Nevertheless, he stressed, concern for the environment need not put a halt to the development. Instead, It should be part of the overall situation to which individuals responded with creativity and productivity.

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The right of nations to self-determination could be realized only by peaceful means, Tofik Gassymov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, told the Assembly yesterday. Only a nation, and not a national minority, had that right. Realization of the right to self-determination should not violate the rights of other nations, their sovereignty and integrity.

Mr. Gassymov indicated that Armenia was pursuing a policy of dividing the Azerbaijani State and of capturing its territories. Armenia had initiated the conflict in Upland Karabakh, which was "an indivisible part" of Azerbaijan. The Armenian minority in that region had autonomy, he said. He recalled that from the very beginning of the conflict, his country had called for an end to the hostilities and a peaceful settlement through negotiations. Every time, he said, Azerbaijan's efforts had been blocked by the silence of Armenia. He called for the complete withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from Azerbaijan as a condition for creating a stable cease-fire under international monitoring. There must also be repatriation of refugees to their places of permanent residence and normalization of life in the affected areas.

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The foreign ministers of the five permanent Security Council members today issued a statement today following a meeting with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reviewing the priorities of the Organization over the past year.

In the statement, Qian Qichen of China, Roland Dumas of France, Andrei V. Kozyrev of the Russian Federation, Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom (representing Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd) and Lawrence S. Eagleburger of the United States welcomed the Secretary-General's report, "An Agenda For Peace", and pledged their support for a further discussion of the report with a view to a rapid and concrete follow-up.

The foreign ministers also expressed their deep concern over the situation in Yugoslavia, calling upon all the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to stop military actions immediately. They deplored persistent Iraqi non-compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions and expressed deep concern at the deteriorating conditions affecting the safety of United Nations personnel in Iraq.

While welcoming the progress made by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in implementing the Paris Agreements on a comprehensive settlement in that country, the five foreign ministers expressed deep concern over the difficulties UNTAC faced. They expressed support for the Secretary-General's efforts to assist fact-finding and reconciliation of the parties in Moldova, Georgia and Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as for his efforts in securing a peaceful transition of power to the Government in Afghanistan.

On the situation in South Africa, the foreign ministers expressed deep concern about the recent escalation of violence and urged the Government of South Africa to take effective measures to stop it. Addressing the tragedy in

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Somalia, they urged the Secretary-General to continue cooperating closely with regional organizations in efforts to reach a political settlement.

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At a press conference today following his first address to the General Assembly as Head of State of newly independent Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze said his country had decided not to enter the Commonwealth of Independent States and expressed "moderate pessimism" as to the future development of the Commonwealth. The Georgian leader, stressed, however, that Georgia would cooperate literally with Commonwealth members in areas such as the economy, monetary and financial relations.

Expanding on his remarks in the Assembly concerning the role of the United Nations in protecting of the rights of the majority over the dictatorship of minorities in Georgia, he said the main concern of the Organization should be to defend human rights and to ensure that there was no infringement on the rights of any people or nation regardless of whom they represented.

Noting that "an army of refugees" consisting of tens of thousands of people had been appearing in the Caucasus for almost four years, Mr. Shevardnadze said Georgia had not felt any impact from the United Nations in the Caucasus. He called for enhancement of the role and responsibility of the entire structure of the United Nations to make it more effective so that people and States "feel the work" of the Organization.

On the question of Russian forces in Georgia, he said negotiations between Russia and Georgia would begin after the scheduled elections. The draft of a major treaty on the principles of mutual relations between the Russian leadership and Georgia had been prepared, he said.

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CORRECTION TO THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS:

The Committee on the Rights of the Child begins its second session on Monday, 28 September.

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Eleven Angolan electoral staff and four Russian crew members killed in third helicopter crash in Angola; country asks for extension of UNAVEM II until 31 December due to eventuality of second electoral round.

+ Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal agree to resume dialogue with Secretary-General in search for "just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to question of East Timor"; first meeting scheduled for December.

+ General Assembly hears address by President of Lituania; statements by Prime Minister of Malta; Chairman of Council of Ministers of Albania; Foreign Ministers of Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Syria and Australia; Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Ghana. On Friday evening, Assembly heard statements by Oman, Iceland, Swaziland, Luxembourg and Mozambique.

+ Co-chairmen of International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, travel to Belgrade to hold meetings concerning United Nations protected areas and parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina; UNPROFOR reports it is now flying regularly between Zagreb and Sarajevo.

+ President of Security Council holds meeting with Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands concerning border incidents between two countries in which two citizens of the Solomon Islands were killed.

+ Secretary-General meets with Foreign Minister of Iraq to discuss Memorandum of Understanding for United Nations humanitarian assistance in that country, among other topics.

+ World Food Programme sends emergency food aid to former Yugoslavia through new trans-european canal for first time.

+ Resolutions ranging from global cooperation in nuclear safety to radiological protection and safeguards' application to verify nuclear uses adopted by thirty-sixth IAEA General Conference as it ends its

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For information media—not an official record

five-day session in Vienna.

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A third helicopter hired by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in support of the Angolan electoral process crashed on Saturday, 26 September, in the same general area where two previous crashes had occurred earlier this month. Eleven members of the Angolan electoral staff and four Russian crew members were killed in the crash. One survived.

The Russian helicopter was loaded with electoral materials, ballots and boxes, as well as twelve passengers assigned to deliver those materials. It crashed before reaching Cassangongo, on the Uige-Damba-Cassangongo route, north-east of the town of Uige.

Twelve people were injured in similar accidents in Angola on 14 and 19 September.

In a related development, Angola has asked that the activities of the United Nations Angolan Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) be extended until 31 December 1992 -- the date the Angolan Government believes to be reasonable for the conclusion of the whole process of democratization under way in that country.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 22 September, the Minister of External Relations of Angola, Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem "Loy", said the eventuality of a second electoral round could not be ruled out, in case no winner came out of the primary, scheduled for 29 and 30 September. He requested the extension of the UNAVEM II mandate in view of those uncertainties and in order to ensure a proper international assistance and monitoring of the present process as a whole.
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The Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal have agreed to resume the dialogue with the Secretary-General to search for a "just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor", under the Secretary-General's auspices. The decision was taken at a meeting with the Secretary-General, at his invitation, at Headquarters on Saturday 26 September, according to a press release issued over the weekend.

The two Foreign Ministers indicated that the dialogue would be a continuing process and that they would meet regularly. Talks would also be held between the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, but in any case the Secretary-General would participate personally or through his designated representative.

The first meeting between the Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General will be held in December.

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Evaluating the discussions after Saturday's meeting, the Foreign Minister of Portugal, Joao de Deus Pinheiro, told the press the objective of the talks was "to let the Timorese say what they want -- that is what is called in international language, self-determination". The Portuguese Foreign Minister also said he thought the attention paid by the international community to the incident in a Santa Cruz cemetery last November and other human rights violations in East Timor, was the reason why Indonesia had now more willingly accepted these negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General.

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Opening this morning's General Assembly debate, Lakhdar Brahimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, said his country was facing a crisis which should not be underestimated and which threatened the decades of achievement. An analysis of the causes of the situation was taking place, he continued, but the means, capacity and will of the Algerian people to overcome the crisis was not in doubt. External factors which were aggravating existing difficulties would not delay the efforts of the people, he said.

The delay in the implementation of the plan to hold a referendum in Western Sahara was another reason for concern, Mr. Brahimi said, calling on all the parties to redouble their efforts to resolve the problems and to move towards its implementation.

Speaking about the situation in the Middle East, the Algerian Foreign Minister expressed his Government's belief that the success of the current Arab-Israeli negotiations depended upon Israel respecting all United Nations resolutions and a global solution to the Palestinian problem -- assuring the Palestinian people of the full exercise of their rights, in their own state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Amara Essy, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, while addressing the situation in Liberia, said his Government believed that the Accord of Yamoussoukro IV offered the best means of solving the crisis in that country. However, the appearance of the United Liberation Movement had further complicated the situation, aggravating the dispute between parties already in conflict, he said.

The real problem of Africa today, he said, was financial and economic in nature. The greatest concern of developing countries was to see bodies such as the European Community take action to stabilize commodities markets, especially regarding raw materials, such as coffee and cocoa. Prices must be stabilized to ensure predictable earnings, he said. The European Community had effected such price stabilization for its own farmers. The same machinery, in Western countries, ought to be adopted internationally for stability in raw materials, he said.

"Since the second world war, the Middle East has not witnessed security or stability due to the continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and its implications", Farouk Al Shara, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Syria told the Assembly this morning. "Those who believe that a total peace can be

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achieved without a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories were gravely mistaken, he said. Syria had expressed its willingness for total peace in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from those territories, but Israel had yet to respond to that challenge, he said.

The convening of the Madrid Conference in the past year had opened for the first time, a rare and historic opportunity to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, based on international legitimacy and the resolutions of the United Nations, he said. Nearly one year had passed since those talks began, the Minister said, and it was to be regretted that the last round of peace talks was concluded in Washington without the Israeli side changing the substance of its approach to the question of full withdrawal from the Golan and other occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

Mr. Al Shara emphasized "the readiness of Syria and the other Arab parties to commit themselves to all that is required in conformity with two Security Council resolutions 242 and 338", stressing that the claim of the Rabin Government that it had changed its policies and priorities in comparison with the Shamir Government "lacked credibility and actual application". The road to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace is clear and well-known, if Israel were really to choose this road", he concluded.

Dr. Edward Fenech-Adami, Prime Minister of Malta, told the Assembly this morning of his country's aspiration to become a full member of the European Community. He pointed out that this over-riding political objective would be a natural culmination of Malta's European identity and of the role it has played over the years in promoting European cooperation, within the Council of Europe, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Recalling Malta's twenty-eight years of United Nations membership, he pointed out that his country had this year been gratified to see its latest initiative, related to the protection of Climate for Present and Future Generations, resulting in the signing of the framework convention on Climate Change by over 150 nations.

Turning to the issue of the United Nations system, he said that Malta shared the view that a revitalized role could be found for the Trusteeship Council as a guardian of the common heritage of future generations, to replace its fast disappearing role as a trustee of dependent territories.

In his address this afternoon, the President of Lithuania, Vytautas Landsbergis, warned that while the "evil empire" continued to fade away, "it has not vanished altogether ... it just may rise again among us and above us". Soviet communism must be condemned and attempts to restore the Soviet Union must be exposed, he said, in order to support "democratic Russia and international peace".

President Landsbergis went on to say that Democratic Russia, which condemned the 1940 Soviet annexation of Lithuania and recognized the independence of Lithuania "should not refer to the Baltic countries as 'newly

emerged' States". That campaign could best be described as "communist woodoo politics", he said.

Lithuania welcomed recently signed bilateral agreements on the withdrawal of the Russian armed forces from its territory, President Landsbergis said, and he did not doubt that the United Nations would urge that such agreements also be signed between Latvia and Russia, as well as between Estonia and Russia. He called for the close monitoring of the withdrawal so that the four States could achieve the normalization of their relationship as soon as possible.

Addressing the subject of non-military threats to security this afternoon, the Foreign Minister of Australia, Gareth Evans, said the recurring tragedy of mass starvation in Africa, often made worse by military conflict, underlined the need for the United Nations system and the Security Council to strengthen its capacity to meet the problems of potential famine.

He outlined a proposal calling for the establishment of a senior group of officials from developed and developing countries and relevant United Nations Agencies, supported by a strengthened Department of Humanitarian Affairs and a comprehensive data base, to convene regularly to conduct high level reviews of the global famine situation and identifying emerging crisis situations. Such a group, he said, would be responsible for turning pledges into timely, life-saving deliveries of food to people in need, and would report regularly to the Security Council.

Speaking on the question of preventive diplomacy, Mr. Evans said it should not be ad hoc or peripheral to the other activities of the United Nations. The crucial elements in making preventive diplomacy work, he said, were timing, adequate resources and a willingness of member States to invest the United Nations with the authority to use all means available for its effective implementation. He also welcomed the decision by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to launch a new fellowship program in preventive diplomacy in 1993 and announced Australia's contribution of $50,000 to the Programme to assist in the fellowship's first year costs.

Kosova was one of the most delicate issues of the Yugoslav crisis, Aleksander Meksi, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Albania, pointed out this afternoon. A highly political conflict, he said, it stemmed from the impossibility of co-existence with the occupier. It was a conflict between the peaceful exercise of the principle of self-determination and "blatant hegemonistic refusal to allow this realization". The Albanian Prime Minister suggested that a negotiated solution to that problem should entail a broader direct participation in the London Conference, including the full participation of the legitimately mandated representatives of Kosova, "when their future is being discussed".

That was the only way to control various tendencies seeking to be aberrated from peaceful pursuit, he said, adding that the United Nations should intervene to enforce the implementation of measures taken or to be taken, to stand forcefully against the policy of fait accompli.

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On Albania's internal economic situation, Mr. Meksi stressed that the main goal of his Government was the establishment of the necessary legal framework to facilitate the reform, in order to harmonize the integration of the Albanian economy with the world economy.

The Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Ghana, Mohammed Ibin Chambas, said his Government supported not only the call for the write-off of debts by official creditors and commercial banks as well as multilateral institutions, but also the urgent convening of the proposed international conference on the financing of development.

Africa's overall economic output had continued to revolve around 3 per cent -- "still lagging behind the population growth", he said. The impact on investment and growth of the structural reform programmes which many African countries had undertaken remained disappointing and debt relief through rescheduling had proved to be of little real benefit to African countries which had continued to part with $10 billion a year on debt servicing.

The Ghanaian Deputy Minister said the end of the Cold war had not brought peace to the world. The world was experiencing simmering disputes, violent conflicts, aggression and foreign occupation, interference in the internal affairs of states, ethnic strife and religious intolerance, new forms of racism and narrowly conceived nationalism. In Africa, he cited several conflict situations which deserved the Organization's attention, including Sudan, Somalia and Liberia, where he said it was imperative that the United Nations assume its responsibilities since the crisis there was far from over.

Yousef Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman, noting that the Gulf area had been vulnerable to security and environmental risks as witnessed by the Iran/Iraq war and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, told the Assembly Friday night that the region had emerged stronger and more integrated than ever before due to the overwhelming support of the international community.

However, he said, still unsettled regional and traditional differences could contribute to instability in the area. At the beginning of the current month, he went on, the United Arab Emirates had announced that, in spite of the efforts to reach an agreement with Iran, no conclusive results had been reached with respect to their three Gulf islands: Abu Musa, Tamb "Al Sughra", and Tamb "Al Kubra". His Government called on Iran, with which it had friendly ties and mutual interests, to settle those disputes through peaceful means in a way that would guarantee the common interest of the Gulf Cooperation Council States.

On the Palestinian question, the Foreign Minister of Oman said peace would be impossible without a satisfactory solution to the problem which was the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict - the Palestinian issue. Oman welcomed and participated in the Middle East Peace Conference sponsored by the United States and the Russian Federation. His country had also taken part in the multilateral negotiations of the Conference, believing as it did in the importance of direct negotiations.

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Jon Baldwin Hannibalsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, told the Assembly on Friday that while a great deal had recently been achieved, and hopes had been raised for the future of the Organization, serious stumbling-blocks remained on the road to genuine peace and security.

To overcome those barriers required a redoubled effort by the world community and its individual member States, he said. Reduction in nuclear arsenals would take years to accomplish. In the meantime, proliferation of dangerous weapons would continue apace, unless effective measures were taken to combat that menace effectively. If those efforts failed, although the world might become less dependent on nuclear weapons, it might become less stable and more militarized.

The Minister also spoke about the concern caused by the continued stationing of foreign troops on the soil of the three Baltic countries - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - and recalled that last month the Prime Ministers of the five Nordic countries had emphasized that the earliest withrawal of foreign military forces from those countries would contribute to the stability of the region..

The Government of Swaziland had been constantly supporting a peaceful process, through negotiation, towards the establishment of a new South Africa, whose guiding principles would be acceptable to all parties, Obed Mfanyana Dlamini, Prime Minister of Swaziland, told the Assembly on Friday. He welcomed the initiative of the United Nations in dispatching a team of observers to South Africa, to assess the violence in the townships and urged all political leaders in that country to set aside their differences and to return to the negotiating table, in a spirit of compromise and conciliation.

Speaking about the situation in Mozambique, Swaziland's other neighbour, the Prime Minister said the crisis there had enormous, direct bearing on Swaziland's own situation. At least 80,000 Mozambican refugees currently enjoyed Swazi hospitality, at continuing expense to its national economy. Swaziland also welcomed the end of hostilities in Angola, he said, expressing his hope for a successful outcome of the election process in that country.

In his statement to the Assembly on Friday night, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, External Trade and Cooperation of Luxembourg, Jacques F. Poos, said the problems posed by the presence of minorities in the Republics of the former Yugoslavia could not be resolved by military intervention, but rather by negotiated arrangements along the lines proposed by the European Community last November.

The question of minorities must be solved on the basis of a series of principles, Mr. Poos noted, including the refusal to allow frontiers to be altered by force. Minorities must be granted special status guaranteeing their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, he said. There must also be transborder cooperation agreements to allow minorities to maintain contact with their counterparts in neighbouring countries.

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On the issue of development aid, Mr. Poos said Luxembourg had decided to increase substantially the amount of its aid for humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. His Government would cooperate with all those interested in promoting human development, transparency and honesty in the management of public affairs, the participation of women in development and general respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Pascoal Manual Mocumbi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mozambique, told the Assembly that Southern Africa was struggling to build and reaffirm its political, economic and social identity and expressed concern about the recurrence of violence in South Africa. Speaking of the drought in the Southern African region, "which was unprecedented, with no parallel in living memory", he said it was particularly grave in the case of Mozambique, where war had been ravaging the country for 16 years. The economic cost of that war, which had claimed hundreds of thousands of human lives, had been estimated at about $20 billion.

However, the Minister said that "never before in the history of the conflict had peace and conciliation amongst all Mozambicans been so close". Direct negotiations between the Government and RENAMO to find a political settlement to the conflict had been underway for two years now, he said. And, since last June, the United Nations, France, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States had been participating as observers in the peace process.

More recently, he said, on 18 September, the Head of State of Mozambique and the RENAMO leader met once again in Gaborone, Botswana, in order to address the issues which were deadlocked on the agenda of the Rome negotiations. The meeting reaffirmed 1 October as the deadline for the signing of the General Peace Agreement in Mozambique, and those issues were resolved.

* * *

The Co-chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, traveled to Belgrade today for a full day of meetings to follow up on specific aspects of the joint communiqué issued at the time of their last visit two weeks ago, and to discuss important matters concerning United Nations protected areas and parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

According to a statement issued in Geneva yesterday, it was hoped that the visit would result in a final agreement on a demilitarization plan for the Prevlaka Peninsula which, once approved by the Security Council and implemented, could restore peace to the Dubrovnik area. The Co-Chairmen were holding meetings today with President Cosic, Prime Minister Panic, and President Milosevic, as well as other military and humanitarian officials.

Upon his return from Zagreb to Geneva on Saturday, 26 September, Mr. Vance told correspondents that he favoured an immediate resumption of aid flights to Sarajevo. The humanitarian situation there was acute, and no time could be wasted any longer, he said.

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At the airport in Zagreb, Lord Owen told the press that reports of ethnic cleansing in the Banja Luka area had been confirmed and that he and Mr. Vance would take up this matter in Belgrade with the authorities there.

In a separate development, the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) has reported that it was now flying a regular shuttle between Zagreb and Sarajevo. The first since 3 September, the UNPROFOR flight left Zagreb on 20 September and returned to the Croatian capital the same day. Such flights, which are only permitted to carry United Nations personnel and logistical material, are proceeding on the basis of written assurances from the three parties to the Yugoslav conflict for the safety of United Nations flights in and out of Sarajevo.

A United Nations official reminded correspondents that the humanitarian flights of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were still suspended. High Commissioner Sadako Ogata was still in touch with the Governments of the contributing countries which had not yet authorized her to resume humanitarian flights.

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Referring to a letter from the Chargé d'Affaires of Solomon Islands concerning border incidents between the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, in which two citizens of the Solomon Islands were killed, Security Council President José Ayala Lasso (Ecuador) said in a press statement today that he had stressed the importance of using all existing bilateral means to peacefully resolve such incidents. The comments were made in connection with a meeting held by the Council President on 24 September with the Deputy Prime Minister and Permanent Representative to the United Nations of Papua New Guinea.

The Council President said the Government of Papua New Guinea had condemned the incident and had issued an apology and, once the incident was verified, it would be prepared to make appropriate compensations. It had also dispatched its Foreign Minister to the Island to investigate the incident, he said. In addition, Papua New Guinea had recalled and reprimanded the Commander and troops involved who would be dealt with under the laws of the country.

Council President Ayala Lasso said he had also met with the Chargé d'affaires of the Solomon Islands who had confirmed the bilateral contacts between the two countries towards the solution to "this unfortunate incident". He had also confirmed the Papua New Guinea had recognized the participation of its troops and offered to pay due compensation.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met Friday, 25 September, with the Foreign Minister of Iraq, Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, to discuss the winter programme for north-east Iraq and the Memorandum of Understanding for United Nations humanitarian assistance to that country.

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According to a press release issued on Friday, consultations will continue early this week.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) -- the food aid organization of the United Nations -- has announced the loading of a vessel with 600 metric tonnes of emergency food aid for Croatia, which will transit through the new Main-Danube canal linking northern Europe with the Black Sea.

In a press release issued in Rome on Friday, 25 September, World Food Programme Executive Director Catherine Bertini expressed the hope that this first test shipment through the new canal would pave the way for other donors to use the route and provide an efficient alternative route to transport food to people in need in the region. Even if the canal voyage takes longer, she said, the barges could move a lot more food than by road.

The route of the barge, which left on 15 September, will take it through Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Hungary where the food is expected on 2 october with transhipment to Zagreb immediately after.

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Strengthening global cooperation in nuclear safety, radiological protection and the application of safeguards to verify the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were among a number of texts introduced during the thirty-sixth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which ended its session last Friday. The Vienna meeting was attended by delegates from more than than 90 countries.

Among resolutions adopted was one on measures to strengthen international cooperation relating to nuclear safety and radiological protection which urged the IAEA Board of Governors and Director General to intensify actions to develop a common basis for acceptable safety levels of all operating nuclear power plants built to earlier standards.

A resolution on South Africa's nuclear capabilities requested countries to continue cooperation with the Agency in implementing a safeguards agreement. It also requested the IAEA's Director General to assist African States in their efforts towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, and to report on progress on "the denuclearization of Africa" to the IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference.

Another resolution condemned Iraq's non-compliance with its safeguards obligations and demanded that it "immediately and fully comply" with all of its obligations under its safeguards agreement with the Agency and under relevant Security Council resolutions.

The IAEA also adopted 1993 budget expenditures of $191 million.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees urges rapid deployment of additional peace-keeping troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina; two United Nations helicopters fired upon yesterday by anti-aircraft artillery in Zagreb.

+ President of Republic of Yugoslavia and President of Croatia to meet in Geneva, tomorrow, 30 September, to begin talks on resolving outstanding problems between the two countries.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina launches urgent appeal to Security Council for right to self-defence, warning that Sarajevo is about to face "final assault".

+ Angola's first multi-party elections began today; Secretary-General's Special Representative Margaret J. Anstee urges continued demonstration of leadership, restraint and tolerance by political leaders to ensure successful outcome.

+ Presidents of Panama and Haiti address General Assembly; statements also delivered by Foreign Ministers of Ukraine, Bahrain, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Bangladesh, Estonia and Saudi Arabia; by Chairman of delegation of Peru; Assembly last night heard statements by Cuba, Singapore, Benin, Costa Rica and Nepal.

+ Haitian President calls for United Nations/Organization of American States joint mission to compel Haitian military to accept democracy.

* * *

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, has urged States to speed up deployment of international peace-keeping troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina, saying the presence of the soldiers of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) would help contain a number of abuses presently being witnessed by UNHCR staff, the Agency said today.

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For information media—not an official record

In a letter to Governments, Mrs. Ogata said only quick action by the international community could "prevent the further deterioration of an already terrible situation". The latest information from Bosnia and Herzegovina pointed to stepping up of 'ethnic cleansing', she said, especially in the Banja-Luka area where large numbers of people were being forced out of their homes and villages and pushed across the front lines towards central Bosnia.

The deployment of up to 6,000 additional UNPROFOR troops was authorized on 14 September by the Security Council, but some nations contributing to the peace-keeping force have said it could be several more weeks before they were actually deployed in the region.

In a related development, two United Nations helicopters were fired upon yesterday by anti-aircraft artillery near Zagreb airport, north-east of Zagreb, while en route from Dubrava to Zagreb. The two pilots landed their craft safely at Zagreb airport, with no damage and no casualties.

According to a press release made available at Headquarters, both helicopters were displaying navigational lights and their transponder code, a signal which identifies them as UNPROFOR aircraft, was in operation. Both helicopters were clearly marked as United Nations craft, and their flight was strictly in accordance with procedures of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Croatian rules of the air and with the specific agreement between Croatian authorities and UNPROFOR, which "guarantees the safety and security of UNPROFOR flights over Croatia".

* * *

The two Co-chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, announced today that President Dobrica Cosic of the Republic of Yugoslavia and President Franjo Tudjman of the Republic of Croatia have agreed to meet in Geneva tomorrow, 30 September, to begin talks on resolving outstanding problems between the two countries.

According to a statement issued in Geneva, the Co-chairmen were scheduled to meet with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina this morning.

* * *

The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has sent an urgent appeal to the United Nations Security Council warning that Sarajevo is about to face what is likely to be the "final assault on the city".

The Acting Bosnian President, Ejup Ganic, wrote in a letter to the Council President, dated 25 September, that there was "an imminent danger" that Sarajevo would "be unable to stand under the force of aggression" by Serbia and Montenegro, unless the international community decided to lift the arms embargo and allowed the Bosnian people to defend itself.

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The letter said reports were reaching Sarajevo of "a massive troop and arms influx from Serbia and Montenegro along the eastern border of the country ... burning and destroying everything in their way, and displacing the local non-Serb population". The aggressor was "transferring all of its available manpower and weaponry across the border before the international observers were deployed along that border".

Mr. Ganic said that because of the arms embargo, Bosnia was not able to defend itself, and yet no one was coming to Bosnia's defence. "The arms embargo against Bosnia must be lifted", he said.
Document: S/24588

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The actual voting in Angola's multi-party election began today after the conclusion of a successful campaign by the candidates.

In a statement issued yesterday in Luanda, Margaret J. Anstee, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Angola, urged a further demonstration of leadership, restraint and tolerance by the leaders of the major parties, saying it was essential that all political parties now pledge themselves to respect the results of the elections, as verified by the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), and to build a new republic in peace and harmony.

Mrs. Anstee went on to say that Angola was to be congratulated for maintaining its cease-fire for 15 months and for its impressive success in registering the great majority of its adult population for the presidential and legislative elections, under such difficult conditions.

Mrs. Anstee also stressed that some political leaders had expressed concern over the slow progress in the demobilization process and in the establishment of the New Angolan Armed Forces. But the joint communiqué by President dos Santos and Dr. Savimbi and a declaration on the disbandment of FAPLA and FALA would help alleviate those concerns, she said.

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Opening today's debate in the General Assembly, President Guillermo Endara Galimany, President of Panama, said his country was laying the foundation for agreements to benefit the six countries of the Isthmus. An agenda had been agreed upon by those countries to strengthen the idea of a united Central America. He indicated the Presidents of the region had decided to place emphasis on the agricultural sector at their forthcoming Summit Conference, to be held in Panama.

President Endara also stressed that the geographic position of Panama and its service economy had attracted a large segment of the drug trade to the country. His Government was carrying out a number of programmes to attack the problem, he explained.

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President Endara recalled that his country would assume management of the Panama Canal at the end of the century. The authorities had already drawn up the legal framework for the utilization of the many improvements undertaken by the United States in connection with the Canal, and a commission made up of the United States, Japan and Panama was studying alternatives to aid in the use of the Canal in the future.

Ukraine, which suffered to the fullest extent from the aftermath of Chernobyl catastrophe, was ever more vigorous in supporting the international campaign for the complete ban on nuclear testing, Anatoly Zlenko, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, told the Assembly this morning. He reiterated his country's intention to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to place all its nuclear power plants and all fissionable materials under the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) safeguards. Mr. Zlenko also stressed that his Government actively supported the idea of creating a nuclear-free zone in the Black Sea bassin.

Turning to the field of human rights, the Foreign Minister expressed concern at the "discriminatory practices" against Ukrainians and all other non-indigenous nationalities that are being pursued, he said, in some new States that emerged on the territory of the former Soviet Union. He expressed the hope that all countries where Ukrainians reside would demonstrate genuine consideration and concerned attitude to their cultural, language and religious needs.

Bahrain had been following with deep concern the recent "unfortunate developments" in the Gulf area as a result of actions taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the island of Abu Mousa, Shaikh Mohamed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, said this morning. While emphasizing the sovereignty and territorial rights of the United Arab Emirates and reiterating his Government's adherence to the good neighborhood principle -- with a view to seeking to free the area from any other tension -- the Foreign Minister called upon the Government of Iran to respect the memorandum of understanding which it had signed with the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking about the situation in the Middle East, Mr. Al Khalifa stressed that international efforts should be intensified to induce Israel to forswear its policies of expansion and settlement building in Arab territories, to recognize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and to withdraw from southern Lebanon in accordance with Security Council resolution 425. He also expressed Bahrain's support for declaring the Middle East region free of all weapons of mass destruction and its readiness to deal with the proposed Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The Foreign Minister of Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Yong Nam, this morning accused the United States of pursuing a policy of "power politics based on the Cold War way of thinking" on the Korean peninsula. He told the Assembly that the presence of United States troops in South Korea was clear evidence of foreign interference and was "impeding a solution" to the question of Korean reunification. There was no justification for such a military presence in South Korea, he said, adding that the United States had

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continued to justify the stationing of its armed forces by arguing that a "power vacuum" would be created. The key issue in realizing reunification of the Korean peninsula was to end foreign interference in the Korean question", he said.

The Foreign Minister also said that the North-South Agreement had shown that both North and South Korea wanted a single unified State. He said he was optimistic about the prospect of dialogue on reunification, despite a series of obstacles and difficulties.

Turning to the nuclear issue, he said the "nuclear suspicion" that remained unresolved stemmed from the deployment of United States nuclear weapons in South Korea. Withdrawal of those weapons was therefore fundamental to resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. North Korea had made it clear that it had no nuclear weapons and no intention nor capacity to make them, he said.

Referring to the "difficult and sensitive stage" in the formation of his country, Kholiknazarzoda Khudoberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, spoke of his country's deepening economic crisis which had led to estimated losses of more than 10 billion roubles, and called upon international humanitarian organizations to send emergency relief assistance and food supplies to Tajikistan as soon as possible. He also appealed for support in ensuring that the system of democracy, chosen by the Tajik people for their country's new development, prevails. A relapse to communist dictatorship was impossible, he said, as the people of Tajikistan were against any totalitarian regime. However, he also expressed concern that the critical stage of the country's economy could lead it off its chosen course.

He attributed the present political unrest and tension to "the former government's attempts to break certain regulations concerning the freedom of the media and human rights", and defended his country's relations with Iran and Afghanistan - two neighbouring Muslim countries - saying that they constituted "a single cultural, ethnic and lingual unit". At the same time, Tajikistan greatly valued friendly relations with all States, he noted, adding that Tajikistan's hydro-power, agriculture and mining industry offered great potential for cooperation with European countries.

The crisis in Peru had become extreme because of terrorism and the dire economic situation of the country, and went well beyond a simple conflict between indigenous peoples and descendants of Spanish settlers, the Chief of Delegation of Peru, Ricardo Luna, explained this morning. Peru had begun an economic recovery programme, and had recently captured leaders of the "Shining Path" terrorist group. The institutions of the country, including a modern parliament and an efficient system of justice, could only help the authorities deal with the new realities. Moreover, he said, Peru would rely on the support of other countries. His Government's request for international observers for the upcoming constituent elections demonstrated its approach to the situation, he noted.

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Mr. Luna also called for a developing of the regional action in economic development, prevention of conflict and peace-keeping. The Organization of the American States (OAS), he said, must be strengthened and move beyond simply ostracizing certain States. Peru shared the position of Ecuator to promote joint development between the two countries, as demonstrated by recent meetings between the Heads of State of both countries.

Outlining his "8 democratic beatitudes for a civilization of peace" in the General Assembly today, the President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, appealed to the international community to "make itself responsible for a progressive civilization of peace". The advent of a civilization of peace worldwide involved restoring constitutional order to Haiti, he said, "where blood is flowing, corpses are being heaped up and repression is being intensified". Never before, he said, had Haiti had such a ferocious dictatorship imposed on it.

The Haitian President denounced the present leadership in his country and called for Haiti's liberation from the army. The army should be disbanded and its members given professional and vocational training, and a police force, separate from the army should be established, he suggested. The President also expressed support for "a real, total and complete embargo" against Haiti and called for an end to the flood of new weapons being shipped continually into Haiti. If a total blockade was necessary, he said, the Haitian people would welcome it.

The Haitian President pleaded for the return of peace to Haiti. The condemnation of the coup d'Etat of 30 September 1991 by the United Nations was an expression of the desire of the Organization to defend the democratic principles and rights of the Haitian people, he said.

The exodus of Myanmar refugees to Bangladesh since November 1991 had imposed a heavy additional burden on the Government of that country, in the wake of the devastating cyclone of May, 1991, Mostafizur Rahman, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, told the Assembly this afternoon. In spite of a mutual agreement of last March, he said, some 270,000 Myanmar refugees still remained in Bangladesh as efforts continued to repatriate them "in honour, safety and dignity, and, above all, on a voluntary basis". The critical catalyst for guaranteeing safe repatriation and resettlement remained an impartial United Nations presence and efforts continued to overcome Myanmar's reticence on this score, he explained. Already, some 49 refugees had returned voluntarily to their country last week, he said, expressing the hope that first step would be followed by a massive voluntary return of the remaining refugees.

Speaking about regional cooperation, Mr. Rahman stressed that his Government had initiated concerted steps to bolster "a new chapter of positive interaction with Bangladesh's immediate neigbour, following years of negativity". Recent official visits by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan had been solely motivated, he said, "to eschew past

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inhibitions and look to the future". Some issues -- especially with India -- remained complex and sensitive, but approaches to solutions were being forged through continuing and pragmatic dialogue, he said.

Recalling the signing of a treaty between Estonia and the Russian Federation in January 1991, in which both States recognized each other as independent and sovereign, Mr.Jaan Manitski, Foreign Minister of Estonia, expressed his concern over some Russian political views that Estonia should not be considered separate from Russia.

Some wished to preserve a Russian military presence at any cost, he noted, and to bind Estonia as a satellite to the Russian Federation through an international campaign which demanded Estonian citizenship for Russian citizens, while retaining Russia's right to be their guardian and protector. That is why, he explained, Estonia was presenting a resolution to the General Assembly on the unconditional withdrawal of foreign military troops from the Baltic States.

The Iraqi regime had recently been returning to the pattern of threats and false claims regarding Kuwait in a manner similar to that pursued on the eve of its aggression against that nation, Prince Saud Al-Faisal, the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, noted today. This made a mockery of Iraq's obligations under international treaties and resolutions, he said. The only means for avoiding instability in the region and dealing with the suffering of the people of Iraq lay, first and foremost, in ensuring the complete and comprehensive implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council which reflect "the collective will of the international community".

The Saudi Foreign Minister also expressed his Government's support for the position taken by the United Arab Emirates over its sovereignty over the three islands of Abu Musa, Tumb and Greater Tumb. Saudi Arabia, he said, believed that the dispute with Iran could be settled through negotiations and the resort to international law and international legitimacy.

Turning to the Middle East situation, Prince Saud Al-Faisal said genuine peace in the area could not be achieved without a permanent and just solution to the Palestinian question and an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

The Saudi Foreign Minister also appealed to the international community to help facilitate the establishment of an international fund to assist Lebanon in strengthening its legal authority and to contribute to the process of reconstruction in that country.

Speaking last night, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba, said those who had exulted over the failure of certain socialist societies should be capable of demonstrating that capitalism could solve the problems of humanity. In two centuries of capitalism, the most powerful country had not been able to solve the social problems of health care, education and housing or the social ills of violence and racism.

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Mr. de Quesada went on to say that the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against the Cuban people had been in force for more than 30 years and was now being intensified and broadened. Never before, he said, had a people been attacked, without the existence of war, in such a rigorous, prolonged and total manner. Moreover, he said, the blockade was being intensified as Cuba was suffering an extremely difficult economic situation derived from the dissolution of the socialist bloc and the radical change of its links with the countries with which it maintained 80 per cent of its trade.

Wong Kan Seng, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, said yesterday that the "Agenda for Peace" had made it clear that the functions of United Nations peace-keepers had gone far beyond their usual mandate. In the past, United Nations peace-keepers were traditionally sent in after a peace agreement had been worked out between warring parties. Today, United Nations forces were involved in tasks ranging from election monitoring to inspection of nuclear installations. He proposed that the Organization and the Security Council play a more active role in preventive diplomacy, adding that it should work in concert with regional groupings.

The Foreign Minister also spoke of the major economic revolution taking place in the South and affecting the lives of billions of people, especially in large nations such as China, India, Pakistan and Indonesia. If present trends continued, by the year 2000, the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asian newly industrialized economies would have a gross domestic product (GDP) of $3.3 trillion, two-thirds of the United States 1990 GDP or half of the European Community 1990 GDP, he said.

Despite the progress made in international relations, greater economic cooperation between nations was needed today, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Benin, Theodore Holo, told the Assembly last night. The differences between the North and the South were increasing, and the situation in Africa, especially South of the Sahara, was more and more serious, he said. The question of the external debt ought to be addressed, because the heavy obligations of debt servicing were causing budgetary problems. Public investment and social expenditures had been seriously affected.

He appealed to the international community to take concrete steps to reduce the external debt of African countries and to increase their development assistance. Mr. Holo pointed out, however, that one year after the adoption of the new Programme of Action for African development, its implementation was not yet effective; the follow-up mechanisms had not yet been put in place; the study on the feasibility of creating a diversification fund for African commodities had not begun; and the provision of adequate financial resources was not yet a reality.

The world had lost interest in the problems of today's democratic and peaceful Central America", Bernd Niehaus-Quesada, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, said yesterday. He expressed regret that the cooperation which existed while Central America was in turmoil, had now decreased.

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During the 1980s, he went on, Central America had suffered a political and social crisis, marked by authoritarian goverments, guerrilla activity, arms proliferation and the destruction of infrastructures. Fortunately, today, democracy and political liberty reigned in the region, he said. Several national reconciliation processes were being developped and a vigorous economic effort was under way. However, it would be very difficult to solidify those advances if underdevelopment and poverty continued to exist.

Reminding the Assembly that the export of coffee and bananas, Central America's leading export products, was met with more obstacles, while financial aid was being reduced, Mr.Niehaus-Quesada said that despite the region's efforts to diversify its production, international markets were not open to it.

Addressing the Assembly yesterday, Mahesh Acharya, Minister for Finance of Nepal, said that as a least developed country, Nepal accepted the principal responsibility for its economic and social development. Its development policies were directed towards creating a basic infrastructure for development. Nepal considered it extremely important to raise the living conditions of its people; to raise the level of literacy; to improve basic health care; and to reduce infant mortality.

One of the most satisfying reforms during the past year had been in the area of coordination of humanitarian assistance, the Nepalese Minister said. He also expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts to enable the Economic and Social Council to play the role envisioned in the Charter. Global economic and social development alone could constitute the lasting foundation of international peace and security, he said.

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At a press conference this afternoon, following his address to the General Assembly, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide reiterated his call for the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) "to work together on an urgent basis in Haiti, so that all the fine resolutions can be translated into fruitful action". By the joint effort, he said, the OAS should be able to find the means to compel the Haitian military to accept democracy.

Responding to questions from reporters on the relative lack of success by the OAS in Haiti a year after his removal from power, the Haitian President said he had been looking into ways of "injecting fresh dynamism into the process". He asserted that the situation in Haiti remained "a sombre picture where criminals were continuing to slaughter people and kill democracy".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

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30 September 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Iraqi Foreign Minister tells General Assembly his country will ask for permission to export oil worth $4 billion over six months period; net returns of such exports to be deposited in United Nations escrow account for purchase of foodstuffs and medicines; Assembly also hears statements by President of Senegal; Prime Minister of Burundi; Foreign Ministers of Qatar, Sudan, Venezuela, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates; Yesterday, Paraguay, Togo, Guatemala and Gambia addressed Assembly.

+ United Nations Protection Force in Croatia faces difficulties implementing plan in three Protection Areas, says Secretary-General, recommending that Security Council authorize Force to monitor withdrawal of Yugoslav Army from Croatia, once agreement has been finalized.

+ President of Republic of Yugoslavia and President of Croatia agree to intensify work towards a normalization of relations between their two countries, according to joint declaration issued in Geneva.

+ UNICEF staff member killed in southern Sudan; another is missing.

+ Secretary-General to sign agreement to establish United Nations Interim Office in Azerbaijan.

+ Latvia asks for United Nations observers to participate in future negotiations between Latvia and Russian Federation on withdrawal of military forces from that territory.

+ Cedric Thornberry appointed Deputy Chief of UNPROFOR by Secretary-General; will continue to serve as Director of Civil Affairs of UNPROFOR.

+ Oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau tells press conference that mankind has been naive about overpopulation, allowing "formidable mistake" to develop.

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For information media—not an official record

The Foreign Minister of Iraq, Mohammed Saeed Al-Sahaf, told the General Assembly this afternoon that his country was prepared to ask to be allowed to export crude oil and oil products in a net amount no less than $4 billion for a period of six months. He also asked that the net returns of the exports be deposited in an escrow account set up by the United Nations, to be used for the purchase of foodstuffs, medicines and other civilian needs; and that the Security Council name certain countries from which goods may be purchased according to normal commercial practices. In addition, Mr. Al-Sahaf said Iraq would be prepared to grant 5 per cent of the net revenue of this operation to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as a contribution towards international relief work in Somalia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries.

The Iraqi Minister said attempts were being made to seize Iraq's frozen assets through a draft resolution under consideration in the Security Council which, he noted, had no justification or legitimacy whatsoever, since Iraq had cooperated in good faith with the United Nations in order to reach an agreement on the export of quantities of Iraqi oil and the use of the revenues thereof.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister also stressed that, while his country endeavoured in earnest to implement its obligations under the Security Council resolutions, the Council had failed to take any step in return towards lifting the blockade or even easing the economic fetters imposed on Iraq. The campaigns of threats and intimidation under the cover of the United Nations resolutions continued unabated in order to create the right climate for the economic blockade to remain in place and for new military strikes to be perpetrated against Iraq in order to destabilize its political system, he said.

Opening the debate in the General Assembly this morning, President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, noted that the economic plight of Africa was particularly serious. Its rates of economic growth were the lowest in the world in proportion with demographic growth, and there were fewer and fewer investments and a growing need for infrastructure. These facts could be explained partly by the youth of African countries, but the main reason was that their commodities and other products were sold at prices set without the consent of the countries concerned. The situation had even worsened despite the efforts by African leaders during the 1980s, he said.

The Senegalese President also stressed that, while the African countries had undertaken to carry out structural changes needed for long-term development and growth, the international community had not extended the assistance it had promised to aid Africa in achieving that goal. Perhaps what was needed, he indicated, were frequent progress evaluations involving both parties. Africa's situation continued to worsen. That was reflected in external debt crisis, the deteriorating environment, drought in southern Africa and the growing acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic.

Mr. Diouf also said that the prevention and solution of conflicts in Africa would be possible only if the flow of arms to combatants was stopped.

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Economic growth based on a rationalization of development efforts, he said, would involve improved inter-African relations, adequate structures and the possibility of receiving fair prices for African products.

Asserting that arms control would remain one of the central issues engaging the United Nations, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jabr Al-Athani, Foreign Minister of Qatar, said this morning that his country had a special interest in the prohibition of chemical and other weapons of mass destruction because of its experience during the war of liberation of Kuwait. He told the Assembly that Qatar attached great hopes to the success of the Conference on Disarmament in rapidly concluding a convention on prohibition of chemical weapons and the prevention of the spread of research and production techniques in this field.

The Minister also spoke about the question of Palestine, welcoming the resumption of negotiations between the concerned parties in Washington and reaffirming his country's commitment to support the peace efforts. The denial by Israel of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian is at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Once a solution to the question of Palestine has been achieved in a way acceptable to the Palestinians, he said, his country would also accept it. "If Israel wants to live in peace, she should withdraw, not only from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but from all Arab occupied territories including East Jerusalem, the Golan and Southern Lebanon", he said.

The principles of human rights were being exploited and misused as a vehicle to interfere in the internal affairs of smaller States, Ali Ahmed Sahloul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, noted this morning, while stressing that the crimes and violations by allied States were ignored.

Accusations of human rights violations were being "constantly fabricated" against those countries which insist on independent decision-making, he said. The enhancement of human rights and basic freedoms could only properly materialize through international cooperation and not through intimidation or confrontation. It was the right of all peoples to establish their political and economic system and institutions on the basis of respect to the principles of national sovereignty, self-determination and non-interference in the internal affairs of others, he said.

The Sudanese Foreign Minister also expressed his Government's willingness to find a peaceful and lasting political solution to the problem of the southern Sudan. The Government has so far achieved considerable progress, as reflected in the outcome of Abuja talks of May this year under the auspices of the President of Nigeria, and was looking forward to the forthcoming second round of talks scheduled to be held shortly in the same city. These talks might reach a lasting solution with rebel movement by the end of the year, he explained.

After 26 years of a one-party system, Burundi had last year installed a multi-party system, Adrien Sibomana, Prime Minister of Burundi, told the Assembly this morning.

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In terms of Burundi's process of democratization, Mr. Sibomana said that nothing was more important than to involve all sectors of the country's population. He called for all refugees from Burundi to return from wherever they were, and pointed out that already 25,000 refugees had rejoined Burundi society.

Turning to the issue of development, he recalled that his Government had initiated a programme of structural adjustment, with the support of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in order to meet the basic needs of the population and to enhance the liberalization of Burundi's economy, already initiated with the establishment of a free trade zone.

The Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Fernando Ochoa Antich, noted this morning that since the end of the confrontation between East and West, the third world was not perceived any longer as having any political ot strategic usefulness. Raw materials had become marginal, the drop in demand for commodities became more acute, the international markets could almost do without the South, he said.

In order to preserve peace, he went on saying, countries must search for balanced links between the hemispheres, put an end to confrontation and strengthen cooperation among people. For its part, he said, the South must face its challenge, by uprooting demagogic populism, inefficiency and corruption. It must also devote itself to productive work and reward creation.

However, he noted, while large regions in the South, especially in Latin America, were striving to internationalize their economies, by opening up to competition, the North was closing itself into blocs that turned inward. If this rigid attitude which characterized some international financial institutions persisted, as well as the dangerous protectionism which was again emerging among the industrialized countries, then the 1990s - which in Latin America had begun with severe economic measures and hopeful signs of growth - could turn out to be a lost decade, he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Afghanistan, Alaj Seyd Salman Gailani, said this afternoon that his newly established Government was preparing the way for the holding of free and fair elections by trying to solve existing political problems -- the legacy of 14 years of war in his country -- through the peaceful means of negotiations and dialogue. The first step involved the convening of a traditional "Loya Jirgah", comprised of the representatives of the people of Afghanistan, to be held probably within the next two months, he said.

He told the Assembly that his Government was exerting every effort to establish appropriate safeguards and guarantees to facilitate a speedy transition of power to an elected government, and added that if necessary it would request the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to supervise the proceedings.

Citing the almost total devastation of his country, including some two million disabled persons, 1.5 million orphans of war and the implantation of

10 million mines by Soviet occupying forces, the Afghan Minister said "perhaps the coming generation of Afghans may not be able to walk without fearing their own soil". He called on the international community to give financial support to the related projects of the United Nations in Afghanistan.

He also urged the Commonwealth of Independent States to address "urgently and seriously" the question of some 30,000 Afghans missing during the years of the former Soviet Union's aggression on Afghanistan

Calling upon the Government of Iran to embark on the settlement of the outstanding issues with his country, especially concerning the occupation of Greater Tumb, Lesser Tumb and Abu Mousa, the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Rashid Abdullah Al-Noami, said this afternoon that Iran, with its occupation of the islands, was violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Al-Noami went on to say that the Gulf region was still suffering from Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. He urged the international community to exert more pressure on the Iraqi regime in order to secure the speedy release of Kuwaitis and other detainees and prisoners of war. The recent events in the Gulf had had a negative impact on the security of the region, as well as on its economic, social and environmental aspects. In view of those developments, the United Arab Emirates had begun a dialogue with the Gulf Cooperation Council States on relations and inter-actions among the States of the region.

Regional integration offered the best prospect for economic development in today's world, the Foreign Minister of Paraguay, Alexis Frutos Vaesken, pointed out last night. He emphasized the important role played by the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) in the economic development of its members - Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Speaking about human rights, the Foreign Minister said that Paraguay was on the path to democracy based on full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. A new constitution had been voted into force on 20 June, and the democratic process, which had stabilized Paraguay's economy, had been brought about by its people, who had rejected dictatorship and totalitarianism.

The struggle for a democratic Togo was essentially that of the Togolese people, Ouattara Fambare Natchaba, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo, told the Assembly last night.

Throughout the 1980s, breaking with the previous regime, Togo had introduced the progressive democratization of political life. However, he said, it must be recognized that one year after the beginning of the transition, the Government had been confronted by great difficulties. Mr. Fambare Natchaba informed the Assembly that the draft constitution of the Fourth Republic had been approved in a referendum last Sunday. Because of the consensus that had been reached, he said, the violence that had affected Togo until recently was calming and all political parties had now access without restrictions, and in a full security, to all areas of the country.

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Turning to the problem of the chronic recession in the developing countries which, particularly in Africa, affected all aspects of life, the Foreign Minister of Togo called on the Assembly for a "new world economic order based on fairness and a more generous vision of international cooperation". The international community should garantee prices for commodities, dismantle tarrifs and other barriers to trade and mobilize the resources to relaunch investment and find a durable solution to the external debt crisis

Gonzalo Menendez Park, Guatemala's Minister of Foreign Affairs, spoke last night of the "lost decades" in his country - a 30-year period of confrontation which had led to neglect of Guatemala's primary problems - including hunger, undereducation, health problems, poverty and social concerns. However, Central America had taken its destiny in hand, he said, and had ended the spiral of violence. The process of change was now ready to bear fruit.

Unfortunately, the insurgents had failed to take advantage of the good will of the Government and had not accepted the proposal of the National Council for Conciliation. He urged the international community to appeal to the insurgents to adopt a realistic attitude and he expressed hope that, with United Nations assistance, the talks would continue.

In the promotion of human rights, he said, his country was receiving expert assistance from the Organization. At the same time, he expressed concern at the application of "selective criteria" in the work of the Human Rights Commission, saying some forms of racism and discrimination against minorities had been disregarded by the Commission in some nations.

In spite of efforts at economic recovery, Gambia shared with the rest of Africa a heavy financial burden, Omar B.Sey, Minister for External Affairs for Gambia, told the General Assembly last night.

Even if Gambia had successfully undertaken an economic recovery programme and, in 1991, started another programme aimed at achieving economic development, the attainment of economic growth, he said, required above all a favourable external environment. A conducive international economic and financial environment, he added, would help resolve the international debt crisis, restore adequate capital flows, create a more open world trading system which would result in sustained economic expansion and enhance private and public spending on human development. Also, he said, there was a need for continued external assistance in support of development efforts in the region.

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The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) operating in Croatia had not so far been able to achieve the goals of the plan for the three United Nations protected areas or to restore a degree of normality and inter-ethnic tolerance there before the winter sets in, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said.

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In a further report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General stated that the "sad fact" was that the parties, and especially the "Knin authorities" (the authorities of the so-called Republic of Serbia Krajina) had not given UNPROFOR the full and sustained cooperation necessary for it to carry out its various mandates. The Knin forces totaled as many as 16,000 armed men, designated variously as "special police" or "border police". UNPROFOR Force Commander Satish Nambiar considered that their almost total ignorance of police work shows that, in reality, they were Serbian paramilitary forces.

In spite of the many problems faced by UNPROFOR, the Secretary-General wrote, the Force had achieved an agreement on the withdrawal of the remaining elements of the Yugoslav Army from Croatia and the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula. With that agreement currently being finalized, the Secretary-General urged the Yugoslav Army to complete its long-delayed withdrawal from Croatia. Meanwhile, he wrote, he would recommend to the Security Council that it authorize UNPROFOR to assume responsibility for monitoring the agreed arrangements.

According to the report, the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons -- for which the UNPROFOR is also responsible under its mandate -- had not been possible at this time because of inadequate security conditions. The Secretary-General warned that "ill-timed and uncoordinated returns" could lead to a further disaster. However, the Croatian Government had, despite warnings, told UNPROFOR that several thousand displaced persons would seek to force their way back into sector East today, 30 October. UNPROFOR had stated that it would accept no responsibility for what may follow, the report said. Document S/24600

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According to a joint declaration issued in Geneva today, President Dobrica Cosic of the Republic of Yugoslavia and President Franjo Tudjman of the Republic of Croatia have agreed to intensify work towards a normalization of relations between their two countries.

During the meeting, which took place under the auspices of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the two Presidents agreed that authorities of their two nations, in close collaboration with the UNPROFOR, would undertake urgent, joint measures to ensure the peaceful return of all displaced persons to their homes, if they so desire. It was also agreed that the Yugoslav Army would leave Prevlaka by 20 October 1992, in accordance with the plan put forward by Mr. Vance. They also agreed to establish a Joint Interstate Committee for the consideration of all open issues and for the normalization of relations between their two States.

According to the joint declaration, both leaders reaffirmed their conviction that all problems between their two States must be settled peacefully and pledged their best efforts to that end. They also declared their total condemnation of all practices related to ethnic cleansing and

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committed themselves to helping reverse what had already happened. They welcomed the early stationing of international observers on airfields in their respective countries as a confidence-building measure and decided to meet again with the Co-Chairmen on 20 October.

In related news from Geneva today, the Co-Chairmen have continued discussions with the delegations participating in the talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina, in an effort to bring about the demilitarization of Sarajevo and the cessation of hostiilites. The delegations have agreed that discussions would commence immediately involving their military commanders and local authorities, under the good offices of UNPROFOR and the Geneva Conference.

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A staff member of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been killed in southern Sudan and another is missing, UNICEF announced today.

Mr. Myint-Maung, a 58-year-old Myanmar national, was working on a relief project in southern Sudan when he and three other foreign nationals were taken prisoners by a faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army on Monday, 28 September. Mr. Maung's body and that of a Norwegian freelance journalist, Helge Hummelvoll, were located several hours later.

Still missing are Francis Ngure, a 38-year-old Kenyan driver employed by UNICEF, and a Filipino national, Vilma Gomez, who worked with Interaid, an international non-governmental organization.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Foreign Minister Tofik Gassymov of Azerbaijan will sign an agreement at Headquarters on Thursday, 1 October, for the establishment of a new United Nations Interim Office in Azerbaijan.

The Secretary-General decided earlier this year to establish United Nations Interim Offices, with information and development components, in six countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States -- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. These unified offices represent a new initiative for closer collaboration between the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in information and development activities in the field.

The first of the Interim Offices was opened in Minsk, Belarus, on 8 September, and an agreement to establish a similar office in Yerevan, Armenia, was signed on 17 September.

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Latvia has asked that United Nations observers participate in future negotiations between Latvia and the Russian Federation on the withdrawal of military forces from that territory.

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In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 26 September, the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Latvia, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, said that he, in his address to the General Assembly, had expressed Latvia's willingness to adhere to the final document of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). In that document participating States committed themselves to end the "stationing of armed forces on the territories of the Baltic States without the required consent of those countries".
Document: S/24596

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced today that he had appointed Cedric Thornberry as the Deputy Chief of UNPROFOR. Mr. Thornberry, who will continue to serve as the Director of Civil Affairs of UNPROFOR, will in his new capacity be deputy to the Force Commander, Satish Nambiar (India).

The Secretary-General also announced that Major-General Philippe Morillon (France), who has been Deputy Force Commander of UNPROFOR since its inception, will take command of the expanded UNPROFOR operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Replacing General Morillon as Deputy Force Commander, based in Zagreb, is Major-General Robert Gaudreau (Canada).

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Oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau today said mankind had been naive about overpopulation and had allowed a "formidable mistake which compromises our own future" to develop. "We are in a situation where we can't come back", he said. He was speaking at a press conference before delivering the Rafael Salas Population lecture, sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at Headquarters today.

Mr. Cousteau said the development of medicine and health care, and the generous sharing of these new developments worldwide, had helped to increase life-span and successfully reduce ilnesses. As a result, population had grown. However, he said, everyone had benefitted from health care, but nobody had benefitted from family planning.

The world was now trying to catch up, he said, and work was being conducted to help bring family planning notions to people who are lacking in education. However, he pointed out that there were formidable obstacles impeding progress. There was a great deal of resentment between the countries of the North and South, he said. "When we want to talk to a woman in Bangladesh about birth control, her reaction is ... deal with your own business, we'll deal with ours". That attitude had made this mission extremely difficult, Captain Cousteau said. "It's going to require a lot of money and goodwill, he said. "We must not give up".

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